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Lambda Letters Project

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Demand More from Our Leaders

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Prior to the recent special election last November, the governor often repeated his message that California is broken. He was mostly wrong about how to fix the problem but his fundamental claim rings true. The election results did nothing to fix the problem.

The governor has failed to enunciate a clear, comprehensive, and logical solution to the state's many problems. But no one else, including the Democrats, has done any better. Consider the following.

Our state government has a built-in structural deficit. It perennially takes in less revenue than it spends each year. Currently the deficit is $6–8 billion. The governor's solution (and that of most Republicans) to this problem has been simply to cut important state spending. We probably need a combination of carefully selected budget cuts and tax increases to balance the budget, but no one—including the Democrats—has had the guts to really push for such a solution.

Our schools are a mess. According to the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, we are the richest state in the union. New York is our nearest competitor with a gross domestic product is just 58% of ours. Yet census figures show that California spends less on education, per pupil, than half the states of this nation. We spend $7,691 per pupil per year. This is $328 per pupil less than the national average. New York spends almost $4,500 more per pupil per year than we do.

The great language diversity of students presents a huge challenge to California's schools. Many inner-city schools are a shambles with decaying buildings, totally inadequate supplies, and outdated teaching materials. All this suggests that we should be spending more on education, not less.

We are building a permanent economic divide between the haves and have-nots. The majority of students attending those inadequate inner-city schools are people of color. The poor education they get prohibits them from qualifying for any but the lowest paying jobs—which condemns them and their children to a permanent life of poverty in this increasingly expensive state. It shows. The Census Bureau says that 7.8% of white Californians live in poverty; for both African Americans and Latinos the rate is slightly above 22%.

Our healthcare system is shameful. Most studies indicate that at least 6 million Californians have no health insurance. The ailments and chronic health conditions resulting from their inadequate medical care further inhibits their ability to get ahead in society. As with education, the burden falls mostly on people of color. According to the Census Bureau, 32.4% of Hispanics and 19.9% of African Americans have no health insurance. Only 14.2% of whites go without health insurance. Sick children can't learn, and sick adults can't hold down good paying jobs. So the lack of adequate health insurance, and the lack of preventive care made possible by health insurance, contributes to the permanent poverty of the underclass.

Our state's record on hate crimes is equally bad. According to the FBI, there were 1,472 reported hate crimes in our state in 2003. That was the highest of any state in the union. The second highest was New York with only 602 reported hate crimes that year. California had 20% of all the reported hate crimes in the nation in 2003.

Now you may be asking, How does this relate to the LGBTI community?

My answer is twofold: We should care about *all* people and want for them what we want for ourselves. And not caring will come back to haunt us. (The people of France did not care enough about what was happening to the impoverished immigrants from North Africa living in their midst, and France paid a price in riots and burned-out cars.)

We should expect more from the governor and his fellow Republicans. But we should also hold the feet of the Democrats to the fire. Demand that they come up with a comprehensive, effective solution to this state's many woes. Then we should do all that we can to see that good laws are enacted and signed by the governor. Don't let up the pressure on any elected officials, Democrat or Republican, until they find a way to make this state a better place for all Californians.

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters and Messages Collected

December, 2005	2,193 letters & e-mails
In all of 2005	355,649 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

December, 2005	$5,060
In all of 2005	$52,770

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

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Lambda Letters Project

Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; and women. We do this by urging elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave? If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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Women's Issue

Support the White Ribbon Campaign

By Joy Fisher, Legislative Analyst

At last there's a campaign for men that every woman can support with genuine enthusiasm.

The White Ribbon Campaign appeals to men to become involved in preventing violence against women. The campaign began in 1991 by a handful of men in Canada in response to the Montréal Massacre of December 6, 1989, the worst single-day massacre in Canadian history, in which 14 female students at the École Polytechnique were systematically killed and 13 other students were wounded by a lone gunman shouting, "I hate feminists."

The campaign encourages men and boys to wear a white ribbon as a symbol that they will never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women.

If Assembly Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee (D–San Francisco) has his way, the White Ribbon Campaign will come to California, coinciding with his launching of ACR 106, a concurrent resolution of the State Assembly and State Senate introduced in the Assembly on January 12.

The text of ACR 106 is as follows:

WHEREAS, According to the California Department of Justice, over 600 incidents of domestic violence are reported every day in California; and

WHEREAS, According to the Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, domestic violence is a societal problem of epidemic proportions; and

WHEREAS, According to Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse, nearly one in three women will be the victim of domestic abuse in her lifetime, three to 10 million children witness domestic violence every year, and one in five high school females experience dating violence; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the physical and psychological effect of domestic violence on the victim and the victim's family, there are job-related consequences as well. As the number-one cause of injury to women, domestic violence costs American business between three and five billion dollars each

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Economic Issue

Stop Budget Cuts for Programs Serving the Poor

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst

Please write to the governor this month and urge him not to cut funds for programs intended for the economically disadvantaged. For example, in his budget the governor is proposing a $200 million cut for CalWORKS and a $40 million cut for child care for welfare recipients.

Not only does the governor want to cut $240 million from welfare programs, but he did not propose any cost of living raise in the cash assistance for welfare recipients, or for elderly and disabled people who receive supplemental security income (SSI). Since the governor and his cronies wasted $70 million on an unnecessary special election, ask him to raise taxes on corporations and high-income earners to replace the money taken from the poor.

Governor Schwarzenegger proposed a $125.6 billion budget for the 2006–07 fiscal year. Although the budget proposal increases funding 23% compared to last year, most of the budget focuses on keeping up with inflation in operation costs and paying back debts—such as the 22% portion of the budget being used to pay back the governor's $4 billion "loan" from education funding in 2004. There is very little money allocated to new Heath and Human Services programs.

The governor keeps reiterating that there is no money for social programs, but that simply is not true. If all else fails, the state could raise taxes to pay for vitally needed services to the poor.

The poorest one-fifth of California citizens are paying the brunt of state taxes. The corporate tax was reduced last year, creating a $467 million shortage that the state could use for welfare programs. That money could have been used to educate the 20% of children in our state who are born into poverty. The money could have been used to subsidize a first-generation college student with a CalGrant. It could have been used for the one in five elderly citizens who must rely on Medi-Cal if they are to remain healthy. It could have been used for the caregivers to

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HIV/AIDS Issue

Reverse Cuts to Medi-Cal in 2006

By Stefan Gruenwedel, Newsletter Editor

The Schwarzenegger administration followed through with its plan to cut Medi-Cal payments by 5% in 2006 by mailing its list of rate cuts to physicians and other authorized Medi-Cal service providers last December.

Medi-Cal covers a broad range of medical services to millions of disabled Californians. Inpatient hospital services (including tests, surgeries, special procedures and care), physician's visits services, medical and surgical dental procedures, and other services are essential for the health and well-being of low-income people living with HIV/AIDS.

People with AIDS would be among several important groups that would suffer greatly by Schwarzenegger's cuts to these funds. Medi-Cal makes it possible for individuals to access primary healthcare, new combination therapies, and other medical services vital to their health and quality of life. We cannot let the governor take this vital support away from people with AIDS.

According to AIDS Project Los Angeles, Medi-Cal costs per beneficiary are already the lowest in the nation, and Medi-Cal reimbursement rates frequently do not even cover the cost of providing care. Medi-Cal physician reimbursement rates are, on average, only about 60% of Medicare physician reimbursement rates and are less than 50% of commercial rates. In fact, unacceptably low Medi-Cal rates have resulted in low provider participation. Rates of physician nonparticipation in Medi-Cal are substantially higher in California than physician nonparticipation rates in Medicare elsewhere in the nation.

As a result of the existing low reimbursement rates, more than 60% of Medi-Cal recipients, including people living with HIV/AIDS, already report difficulty finding a doctor. The additional rate cuts as of January will only make matters worse.

Representing the healthcare providers, the California Medical Association (CMA) reports that in the past 20 years many physicians have received only one modest Medi-Cal rate increase. In that same time, the

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People of Color Issue

Support Consumer Protections

By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst

Latinos and Asians make up the fastest growing consumer markets in California. Nearly one out of every eight consumers in the Golden State is unable to speak or read English fluently. These demographic trends have prompted an increasing number of businesses to develop strategies to tap into the limited English speaking markets.

In communities across the state, residents are bombarded daily by radio, television, print, and billboard advertisements extolling the virtues of the rapidly evolving telecommunications industry and its latest products. Some companies have begun providing non-English speaking consumers with documents in their languages as a cost of business. However, many companies do not provide such services. Even among those that do, in-language customer service oftentimes remains inadequate and unhelpful, leaving many limited-English speaking customers frustrated and victimized.

SB 1068, the Cell-Phone Consumer Protection Bill, by Martha Escutia (D–Norwalk) amends the California Public Utilities Code by requiring the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to implement a telecommunications Bill of Rights (BOR) for California's consumers of telecommunications services.

The CPUC first proposed a telecommunications BOR four years ago. In May 2004, despite heavy opposition from the telecommunications industry, the CPUC approved a final BOR. But in January 2005 the CPUC voted 3–1 to suspend the BOR. At the time, Commissioner Susan Kennedy, who now works for the Schwarzenegger administration, argued that the BOR imposed too many unreasonable restrictions on a wireless industry that has traditionally been only "lightly" regulated. Escutia's bill would require the CPUC to implement a telecommunications BOR.

This bill would protect all California telecommunications consumers but it also contains provisions which would ensure that California's vulnerable limited-English speaking consumers "receive clear and complete information about rates, terms, and conditions for available products and services, and to be charged only according to the rates, terms, and conditions to which the consumer has agreed." The bill is currently in the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce and will be voted on in March.

Please write to the members of the Assembly and ask them to do all you can to make sure SB 1068 is approved.

LGBTI Issue

Support Tolerance Training in Schools

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst

Please write your senator this month and ask him or her to work for passage of AB 606 in the Senate. This bill, introduced by Assemblymember Lloyd E. Levine (D–Van Nuys) and sponsored by Equality California, would require school boards to establish programs to educate students and staff about discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Although there are already antidiscrimination policies in schools, AB 606 would require the district to publicize these policies and take specific actions to punish violators.

Harassment and discrimination in public schools of LGBTIQ students is not rare and must be a subject of concern for school boards across the state. According to a Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network survey, 84% of LGBTIQ teens are verbally harassed at school. Forty percent of lesbian, gay, or bisexual teens are *physically* abused, compared with 55% of transgender teens. Of these numbers, 83% report that faculty never intervene.

When people encounter a hostile environment with very little, if any, relief from figures of authority, they choose not to go to that place anymore. LGBTIQ students are three times more likely to drop out of school and 40% more likely to skip school because they feel "unsafe." A UC Davis study found that pupils who are harassed based on actual or perceived sexual orientation are at least three times more likely to carry a weapon to school, seriously consider suicide, make a plan for attempting suicide, or miss at least one day of school per thirty school days because they do not feel safe.

AB 606 would require such preventative measures as reprinting and publicizing antidiscrimination policies with the inclusion of "actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity" and training teachers in reacting to these incidences of prejudice. In fact, it would allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction to withhold public funding from a school if they determined that the school board was not in compliance with the state-mandated antidiscrimination policy. Money withheld from noncompliant school boards would then be used to implement other antidiscrimination programs per the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000.

Please encourage your state senator to support AB 606. We must protect each and every one of our students. By protecting them, we can give them a better education and future.

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February Legislative Update

This is now the second year of a two-year state legislative session. Several bills introduced in 2005 did not make it out of their first house before the end of the year. They may have been voted down or they may have been held in a committee in their house of origin without a vote. These bills, still in their house of origin, are called two-year bills.

You can tell which bills in this list are two-year bills by looking at the letters in their bill numbers and at their status. If a bill begins with "AB" and is in an Assembly committee, it is a two-year bill. If a bill begins with "SB" and is in a Senate committee, it is a two-year bill. The Legislature's rules state that two-year bills must be out of their house of origin by January 31 or else they are dead. So most of the action in January was on these two-year bills.

Any bills on the following list that are still in their house of origin died at the end of January unless their status is introduced. These bills were introduced this year. These bills have until the end of this year's legislative session to be passed and sent to the governor. Here are the bills we are tracking at the moment.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 568 (Bonnie Garcia, R–El Centro)
Purpose: To require that any woman seeking an annual gynecological examination or family planning appointment be provided with information on HIV and AIDS, and would require that the woman be offered either the option of being tested onsite, if available, or referral information to other testing locations. If the woman chooses to be tested for HIV, the bill would require the physician and surgeon or other healthcare professional attending the woman at the time the results are received to ensure that the woman receives information and counseling, as appropriate, to explain the results and the implications for the woman's health, including any follow-up care that is indicated.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Hearing postponed by committee. No date for a vote set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1677 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To require state prisons to allow nonprofits or healthcare agencies to distribute condoms and dental dams to prisoners in state prisons.
Status: Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Held under submission. No date for a vote set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

Economic Issues

AB 63 (Audra Strickland, R–Westlake Village)
Purpose: To establish the Elderly and Disabled Persons' Revolving Home Improvement Loan Program. Existing property tax law allows a homeowner's property tax exemption in the amount of $7,000 of the full value of a dwelling, as defined. This bill would, for assessment years beginning on and after January 1, 2006, increase the amount of this property tax exemption to an amount equal to 25% of the full value of a dwelling of qualified purchaser, as defined. This bill would authorize this increased exemption amount for the first five years of a purchaser's eligibility for the exemption, and would, over a five-year period, incrementally decrease the exemption amount to $7,000 of the full value of the dwelling .
Status: In the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee. Bill is probably dead.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 75 (Dario Frommer, D–Glendale)
Purpose: To establish the California Rx Plus State Pharmacy Assistance Program. The bill would authorize the state to negotiate drug rebate agreements with drug manufacturers to provide program drug discounts. The bill would authorize any licensed pharmacy or drug manufacturer to provide services under the program.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee. Hearing canceled at the request of the author. No new date for a vote set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 95 (Paul Koretz, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish a program to require manufacturers of drugs for life-threatening chronic conditions that are on the list for Medi-Cal, or the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, to pay the department a rebate equal to the costs of marketing that drug. The bill also would require these manufacturers to disclose to the department all costs incurred in the marketing of the drugs to California consumers and physicians.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Held under submission. No new date for a vote set yet. The author thinks it will probably not get out of the Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 503 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To create a CalWORKs Bill of Rights and ensure that each CalWORKs participant receives a copy in his or her primary language.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Held by committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1121 (Paul Koretz, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To enact a moratorium on all death sentences in California until the legislature has fully considered any recommendations of the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice and has enacted legislation ending the moratorium or until January 1, 2009, whichever comes first.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Scheduled for vote in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on January 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1778 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require a school district—which itself requires the parent or legal guardian of a high school pupil to provide current emergency information to the pupil's school of attendance—to include a notice in the emergency information request form that informs the parent, legal guardian, and pupil of his or her right under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to request that the name, address, and telephone listing of the pupil not be released to military recruiters without his or her prior written consent. The bill would also allows the parent, legal guardian, or pupil to indicate on the request form that he or she chooses to make such a request. The bill would require a school district to provide the notice in English and in whatever other language the school district already uses for its emergency information request form. The bill would also provide that a request by a parent, legal guardian, or pupil to not release a pupil's information without prior written consent would not prohibit the high school from releasing that pupil information to postsecondary educational institutions or prospective employers.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1780 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To reduce the amount of Community College fees to $11 per unit per semester, effective with the fall term of the 2006–07 academic year. This bill contains other related provisions.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1786 (Rudy Bermudez, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, upon identification of appropriate resources, to examine home-to-school transportation funding formulas and determine how current formulas should be modified to allow school districts and county offices of education to initiate new transportation programs and receive state funding on an equitable basis.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1835 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to $7.25 per hour, effective on and after July 1, 2007, and to $7.75 per hour, effective on and after July 1, 2008. The bill would provide for the automatic adjustment of the minimum wage on January 1 of each year

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Legislative Update

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thereafter, calculated by multiplying the minimum wage by the previous year's rate of inflation, as specified. Automatic adjustment is key.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1836 (Lynn Daucher, R–Brea)
Purpose: To enact the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006, to become operative only if approved by the voters at a regularly scheduled election, and would provide for its submission to the voters at that election. The bill would also enact the Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 12 Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2008, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2010, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2012, and the Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 12 Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2014, to become operative only if approved by the voters at specified statewide elections, and would provide for the submission of those acts to the voters at those elections. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support. Could help poor school districts upgrade their schools.

AB 1844 (Ed Chavez, D–City of Industry)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to $7.25 per hour, effective on and after July 1, 2007, and to $7.75 per hour, effective on and after July 1, 2008. In addition, this bill would provide for an automatic adjustment of the minimum wage on January 1 of each year thereafter, calculated by multiplying the minimum wage by the previous year's rate of inflation, as specified. Automatic adjustment is key.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1851 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To authorize a participating Healthy Families Program health, dental, or vision plan to provide application assistance directly to an applicant to sign up for Healthy Families.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 517 (Gloria Romero, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require the Superintendent of Schools to certify that low-performing high schools must meet minimum conditions necessary for students to successfully pass the high school exit examination. If not, they must submit a report that identifies barriers and actions to address them.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on January 18.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To make all California residents eligible for specified healthcare benefits under the California Health Insurance System. This would, on a single-payer basis, negotiate for or set fees for healthcare services provided through the system and pay claims for those services.
Status: In the Assembly Rules Committee. Awaiting assignment to a new committee after the author introduces legislation to identify a funding source for SB 840.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1118 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To express the Legislature's intent to enact legislation to provide access to affordable healthcare insurance to all uninsured children in California, and to provide a funding mechanism for that insurance.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1124 (Tom Torlakson, D–Concord)
Purpose: To express the intent of the Legislature that various actions should occur in order to recruit, train, and retain a qualified teacher for every classroom in California.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Watch.

SB 1162 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to $7.25 per hour, effective on and after September 1, 2006, and to $7.75 per hour, effective on and after July 1, 2007. In addition, this bill would provide that the minimum wage shall be adjusted automatically at intervals to be determined, calculated by an indexing method to be determined. This bill contains other related provisions. Automatic adjustment is key.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1164 (George Runner, R–Lancaster)
Purpose: To enact the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006, to become operative only if approved by the voters at a regularly scheduled election, and would provide for its submission to the voters at that election. The bill would also enact the Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 12 Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2008, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2010, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2012, and the Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 12 Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2014, to become operative only if approved by the voters at specified statewide elections, and would provide for the submission of those acts to the voters at those elections. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support. Could help poor school districts upgrade their schools.

LGBTI Issues

AB 606 (Lloyd Levine, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require a school district to establish and publicize an antidiscrimination and antiharassment policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on specified characteristics, including, but not limited to, actual or perceived gender identify and sexual orientation. The bill would require a school district to take specified actions related to increasing awareness of, preventing, and ensuring appropriate responses to, incidences of discrimination and harassment based on those protected characteristics. By requiring school districts to perform additional duties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on January 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 628 (Audra Strickland, R–Westlake Village)
Purpose: To provide that the religious or moral beliefs of a person licensed or certified to provide foster care, or of a person applying for licensure or certification to provide foster care, do not render the person ineligible to provide foster care; and that a foster care provider's objection, based upon religious or moral grounds, to the initial or continued placement of a foster youth in the provider's care, do not render the provider ineligible to provide foster care to any other foster youth.
Status: In the Assembly Human Services Committee. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted. Failed in committee.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1056 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the State Board of Education to integrate instruction on intergroup relations and tolerance into existing English language arts, and social science curriculum frameworks where appropriate, as a component of the specified review, with certain additional requirements. The bill would set forth the intent of the Legislature to establish these requirements as a pilot program in the county of Los Angeles and would limit the requirements to that county.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on January 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1160 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To state legislative findings and declarations regarding the influence of a defendant's bias against the victim upon the trier of fact in a criminal proceeding and defendants' use of panic strategies based upon discovery or knowledge of an actual or perceived characteristic of their victim to decrease criminal culpability for crime. This bill contains other related provisions.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1207 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To add to the pledge contained in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices that the individual shall not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

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Status: Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on January 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1501 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To establish a pilot project, to remain in effect until January 1, 2009, authorizing the Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa, and the City and County of San Francisco to develop and establish integrated, coordinated protocols to address cross-jurisdictional cases involving sexually exploited minors. The bill would also authorize those counties to develop and implement memoranda of understanding between the counties to coordinate services to be provided to sexually exploited minors who are transferred from one county to another.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Hearing canceled at the request of the author. The bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1005 (Dean Florez, D–Bakersfield)
Purpose: Beginning with the lien date for the 2006-07 fiscal year, this bill would fully exempt from property taxation the principal residence of the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who dies as a result of a service-connected disease or injury, as specified. This bill would also fully exempt from property taxation the principal residence of the unmarried surviving spouse of a qualified public safety officer who died in the line of duty, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.
Status: Died in the Senate Revenue and Tax committee.
LLP Position: Support if amended to add surviving domestic partner.

People of Color Issues

AB 432 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To additionally authorize a new citizen to register and vote at another location designated by the county elections official and extend that period until 8 p.m. on Election Day. By increasing the duties of local elections officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.
Status: Failed in the Senate Elections committee. Reconsideration granted.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 775 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To prohibit any state or local governmental agency, or any public or private agency, organization, entity, or program that receives state funding, from using any child, or permitting any child to be used, as an interpreter in any hospital, clinic, or physician office in the context of diagnosis or treatment, except as specified. The bill would require each such agency, organization, entity, or program that receives state funding to have in place, and available for inspection, an established procedure for providing competent interpretation services that does not involve the use of children in this manner. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.
Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Hearing canceled at the request of the author.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 908 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To prohibit the manufacture or sale of personal care and beauty products containing two specific phthalates which have been linked to birth defects and cancer. A vast majority of nail salon workers, who are exposed to these chemicals, are Asians and Pacific-Americans.
Status: Referred to the Assembly health Committee. Hearing canceled at the request of the author. Bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 930 (Hector De La Torre, D–South Gate)
Purpose: To establish the New California Citizenship Initiative to assist eligible immigrants through the naturalization process and to help them integrate into the economic and civic fabric of our state.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Held by that committee. Bill is probably dead.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 98 (Shirley Horton, R–Lemon Grove)
Purpose: To proclaim May 2006 as World Languages and Cultures Month, encourage all educational communities in California to celebrate languages and cultures with meaningful pupil activities and programs, and urge all residents to become interested in and give full support to quality language and cultural programs for all pupils in California schools.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 100 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To proclaim April 24–30, 2006, as California Holocaust Memorial Week and urge Californians to observe these days of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust in an appropriate manner.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Rules Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 101 (Alan Nakanishi, R–Lodi)
Purpose: To declare February 19, 2006, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Rules Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 103 (Alan Nakanishi, R–Lodi)
Purpose: To proclaim January 13, 2006, as Korean-American Day.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 768 (Joseph Simitian, D–Palo Alto)
Purpose: To regulate the use of radio technology in government-issued identification documents. Their inclusion in mass-distributed documents could result in personal data - including, names, addresses, immigration status, gender, race and ethnicity - being scanned without people's knowledge or permission, exposing immigrant and racial/ethnic communities to risks of tracking, profiling, and discriminatory targeting
Status: In the Assembly Inactive file.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1068 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To codify a Telecommunications Bills of Rights, including certain language access protections. For example, this includes the right to receive available written contracts and disclosures in the same language as used in the marketing of the product or services.
Status: In the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted. No new date for a vote set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1160 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require the Department of Motor Vehicles, in the issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards, to issue licenses and cards that are in compliance with specified requirements of the federal Real ID Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-13). This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. This bill would allow some undocumented immigrants to obtain limited-use driver's licenses.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 291 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services, in cooperation with other postpartum mood and anxiety disorders professional organizations, to prepare an information sheet for pregnant women containing specified information about the symptoms and treatments for postpartum mood and anxiety disorders, and related resources and assistance for parents, and to make that information sheet available to healthcare providers and members of the public. The bill would require a physician or other healthcare practitioner who provides prenatal care to a pregnant woman during gestation or at delivery of an infant to provide the woman with a copy of that information sheet, and to document in the patient's medical record that the information was received by the patient. The bill would require that

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Legislative Update

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the physician, or other healthcare practitioner, or a hospital, birthing center, or other medical facility that employees the physician or other medical practitioner to retain a copy of that documentation in the patient's medical record for a period of at least three years.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee. Hearing canceled at the request of the author. The bill is probably dead.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 506 (Cindy Montanez, D–Mission Hills)
Purpose: To establish the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program and require each school district, by an unspecified date, to establish a policy and protocol, including reporting procedures and response requirements, for dealing with teen dating violence in middle and high schools. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Held by committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 525 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)
Purpose: Existing law establishes the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) Program to provide health insurance coverage for certain eligible persons who pay a subscriber contribution. The AIM Program provides coverage, at a minimum, to subscribers during one pregnancy, and for 60 days thereafter, and to children less than two years of age who were born of a pregnancy covered under this program to a woman enrolled in the program before July 1, 2004. This bill would require the state to request waivers to federal laws and exercise options available under federal law to maximize women's and infants' eligibility for the AIM Program.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on January 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1787 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To prohibit a judicial officer from authorizing the issuance of an emergency protective order pursuant to a standing order. The bill would also clarify that a law enforcement officer must make a separate request of a judicial officer to obtain an emergency protective order for each specific case in which the law enforcement officer asserts reasonable grounds for the issuance of the order.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Watch.

AB 1796 (Rudy Bermudez, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To require an applicant for a physician and surgeon's certificate to disclose information related to sexual misconduct or harassment and to obtain a passing score on a specified licensure examination within four attempts of taking it. The bill would authorize the Division of Licensing to require payment of the cost of monitoring as a condition of a probationary license, and specify that no applicant may reapply until three years after the date of the decision denying his or her application for a physician and surgeon's certificate.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

ACA 24 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To increase taxes on high-income people. Would also require that all revenues, less refunds, derived from those new taxes be transferred to the Domestic Violence Shelter Services Fund, created by this measure, for allocation by a Domestic Violence Shelter Services Fund Advisory Council, established under this measure, to domestic violence services organizations, as provided. This bill contains other related provisions.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 99 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To proclaim the month of October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Rules Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 102 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To commemorate the accomplishments of female athletes, coaches, officials, and sports administrators for their important contributions in promoting the value of sports participation in the achievement of full human potential, and proclaim February 1, 2006, as California Girls and Women in Sports Day.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Rules Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 106 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To encourage participation in the White Ribbon Campaign related to violence against women.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 617 (Jackie Speier, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: To establish the Gender-Specific Standards for Women in Prison Task Force and charge it with evaluating certain conditions in all publicly and privately operated correctional institutions for women, and reporting on those conditions to the Secretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency. The bill would require pregnant inmates to be housed separately and receive specified care.
Status: Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on January 19.
LLP Position: Support.

Seeking Bisexual Perspectives on Same-Sex Marriage

A Call for Submissions

Submissions are sought for a special issue of the Journal of Bisexuality, edited by M. Paz Galupo, Ph.D. This special double issue will include theoretical and research articles (peer reviewed) as well as personal essays and interviews that explore bisexual perspectives on same-sex marriage or other means of legal recognition of same-sex relationships. This double issue will be published simultaneously as a book by The Haworth Press.

Disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches representing a variety of experiences and perspectives, both positive and negative, will be included. Possible topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Implications of same-sex marriage and/or civil union legislation for bisexual women and men
- Political discussions and media representations of bisexuality in the same-sex marriage debate
- Bisexual perspectives on same-sex marriage activism
- Traditional marriage, same-sex marriage, monogamy and non-monogamy
- Attitudes toward bisexual women and men in the context of same-sex marriage
- Bisexual experience of relationships within the context of legal and same-sex marriage

Especially encouraged are articles that consider the topic across experiences of race, class, gender, nationality, and other forms of diversity.

Please direct inquiries to M. Paz Galupo, Ph.D., the special issue editor, at pgalupo@towson.edu. If you are considering submitting please let Dr. Galupo know in advance.

Submission deadline for full articles is August 1, 2006.

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Women's Issue

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year in absenteeism, medical costs, employee turnover, and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, The goals of the White Ribbon Campaign are to urge men to show their support for ending men's violence against women, raise awareness of the problem in the community, conduct educational work in schools, workplaces, and communities, and to support organizations that deal with the consequences of violence against women; and

WHEREAS, Wearing a white ribbon fosters a society free from violence against women and encourages reflection and discussion that will lead to personal and collective action among men; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby encourages participation in the White Ribbon Campaign; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

In addition to wearing white ribbons, men and boys may also sign a pledge card, found on Yee's website, pledging that they will never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women.

In Canada, 100,000 men wore white ribbons within six weeks of the start of the campaign.

Write your Assemblymember in support of this important bill. If your Assemblymember is a man, urge him to start wearing a white ribbon today!

Economic Issue

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the elderly who may now have to go on welfare because the governor wants to decrease their wages.

The more you take away from the poor, the less able they are to pay for their own health care and education, and the more they must rely on state assistance. Wages in California are below the national average. Workers in California can no longer afford to doubly subsidize the rich by being overtaxed for already low wages. When health care workers cannot afford health care, the state's funding structure must be modified. Its budget must not be cut! Only once the tax code is revised to give relief to the 20% who cannot afford to pay the tax in the first place should one propose cuts.

Please tell the governor not to cut funding for services to the poor. Tell him, if cuts really are needed, that he should raise taxes on wealthier Californians to make this possible.

Because we are in a budget crisis, it would behoove the state of California to revise the tax code and begin collecting taxes from corporations and high-income earners, rather than cutting social programs benefiting the poor. An increase in revenue, coupled with responsible spending, would mean that maybe in the not-too-distant future we can stop or reduce our borrowing of high-interest bonds.

Contrary to the governor's assertions, higher corporate taxes will not drive corporations out of California. In fact, a well-paid workforce results in a more productive economy. Taxes are an investment in California's future. By taxing corporations, California can regain the revenue it so badly needs during this crisis.

Please write the governor and ask him to give back to all Californians what he took to benefit a few Californians.

HIV/AIDS Issue

Continued from page 3

cost of providing care has increased dramatically. As a result, in real terms, physician rates have actually been decreasing.

The impetus for these Medi-Cal cuts is a law signed in 2003 by Governor Davis to address the state's budget crisis. The reductions were to start in January 2004 and sunset in January 2007. However, the CMA won a federal court injunction in 2003 blocking the 5% cuts, arguing that they would harm patients and significantly reduce access to care.

Unfortunately, that injunction was overturned in August 2005, opening the door for the state to immediately reduce Medi-Cal reimbursement rates retroactive to January 2004. The CMA pressed to eliminate the cuts, and Schwarzenegger signed AB 1735 (Hector De La Torre, D–South Gate), which blocked implementation of Medi-Cal cuts retroactively or in 2005.

According to the CMA, they and the administration agreed to look for ways to avoid implementing the final year of the reduction by finding savings in the Medi-Cal budget through cost-containment and efficiency programs. They were understandably disappointed when the scheduled cuts for 2006 were announced in December, equaling roughly $60 million of the state's budget.

Please sign the sample letter to Governor Schwarzenegger urging him to eliminate the Medi-Cal provider cuts and work with both legislators and the CMA to find other cost-savings measures.

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